

**Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson Donelson, January 18, 1824, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO ANDREW J. DONELSON.

Washington, January 18, 1824.

D'r Andrew, I wrote you yesterday requesting you to search for, and send me, a copy of my letter written to Mr Monroe in the latter part of the year 1816, or early in 1817, and a copy of Mr Monroes letter to me on the subject of his Executive council or heads of Departments. My letter to him which I want is the one in which I bring to his view, and recommend to him Colo. Drayton of Charleston So. Carolina as a fit person as Sec. of War. I wish you to send copies attested and keep the originals least they may be taken out of the mail; and adress them to Major Eaton.¹ If you have time; send duplicates; one, to Major Eaton, and the other adressed to me: read over Mr Monroes letters of that date, and send me copies of all you find on the subject of officers and appointments, and copies of my letters that contain recommendations of date 1816 or 1817. I expect the object is, by the publication at this moment to produce an effect upon Pensylvania who is about to form an electoral Tickett to support me. But this will not take as I believe; Mr Kreamer a member from Pensylvania, the moment he saw it, went direct to the President and asked him, if there was any truth in the publication; and received for answer: "that there was not", he immediately wrote to Binns the Editor in Philadelphia² a letter giving the declaration of Mr Monroe, and requesting him to publish it—which if he does not, Mr Kreamer (who is my warm friend) intends to have it published here. This will down the contriver; and make the calumny recoil on the author. If it was intended to irratate me, they have missed their mark—I laugh at it. Present me to Mrs. Jackson affectionately—to they Andrews and Lyncoya, and to all friends. I have only to add, that intrigue is the order of the day here. I

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steer clear of all that suspect of it, I abhor it, and its actors, and would not be placed in the Presidential chair by it. Present me affectionately to Miss. E. to my old friend Capt J. D. and to all friends. your affectionate uncle

1 Parton, who got much information from Maj. W. B. Lewis, creates the impression that it was Lewis's foresight that produced these letters and preserved them for future political use. But it is well to remember that Lewis was in Tennessee when plans were made in Washington to bring them before the public, and it was to Eaton that they were sent. In fact, it seems that the shrewdness was Eaton's rather than Lewis's. Parton's *Jackson* (II. 355–370) deals extensively with this correspondence. In Bassett's *Jackson* (I. 339–344), an account is given of the means by which the correspondence was made to serve political ends. For the letters referred to, see vol. II., pp. 261, 263, 266.

2 Editor of the *Democratic Press*. See the *Recollections of John Binns*, pp. 246–249.

P. S. I have heard from mr Monroe this evening and he has not yet found it. This makes it necessary for you if you can find it to forward it at as early a day as possible. A. J.

I am informed, south carolina, alab[ama], Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee Kentucky, ohio, and Maryland, will all come out in my favour—north Carolina and Newyork are divided, this make the present effort necessary to endeavour to divide if possible the great leading state Pensylvania. There is a great Stir in Virginia: and Georgia if she gives up her candidate, is said will support me. whether one half of the above information is true I cannot say; I give it as I have heard it, for yourself only. I am told missouri is coming out also but as I know nothing only what others tell me, I let it pass for mere rumor, as you know the Hermitage is my delight, and my only ambition to dwell on it: adieu A. J.